

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 28th day of April, 1987.

S.B. 164

## CHAPTER 111

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE SALE OF CLEAN  
DETERGENTS IN NORTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, algae blooms have choked the Chowan River, Neuse River, and Tar River and have threatened Falls Lake, Jordan Lake, Pamlico Sound, and Albemarle Sound; and

Whereas, excess nutrients, especially phosphorus, from municipal wastewater treatment plants, septic tanks, urban runoff and agricultural runoff cause algae blooms; and

Whereas, municipalities discharging to nutrient sensitive waters are required to remove phosphorus at their wastewater treatment plants; and

Whereas, many local governments have enacted ordinances to reduce urban runoff and stormwater pollution in watersheds and along streams and rivers; and

Whereas, farmers, assisted by funds provided since 1984 by the General Assembly for the Agriculture Cost Share Program for Nonpoint Source Pollution Control, are using agricultural best management practices to reduce agricultural runoff and to conserve soil; and

Whereas, requiring the use of clean, phosphate-free laundry detergents will immediately reduce the amount of phosphorus in North Carolina's rivers, lakes and sounds at no cost to consumers or to municipalities; and

Whereas, requiring the use of clean, phosphate-free laundry detergents will significantly reduce the amount of phosphorus that municipalities will have to remove at their wastewater treatment plants; and

Whereas, our neighbors the Commonwealth of Virginia and the State of Maryland have enacted similar legislation to address the problem of excess nutrients in their waters; and

Whereas, the Environmental Management Commission at its meeting on March 12, 1987, unanimously adopted a resolution urging the General Assembly to enact legislation limiting phosphorus in laundry detergents; Now, therefore,

*The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:*

**Section 1.** Chapter 143 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read: